

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9 are pending in the Application.

Claims 1-5 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 5,264,736 (Jacobson). Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Jacobson in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,441,673 (Zhang). It is respectfully submitted that the claims are allowable over Jacobson alone and in view of Zhang for at least the following reasons.

The rejected claims are patentable over Jacobson alone and in view of Zhang at least because those references, taken individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest all the elements recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 8, which requires for example:

pre-charging the inductor by current flowing from the first switch across the inductor to the second switch or from the second switch across the inductor to the first switch before a switching of the second switch.

In a Response to Arguments section contained on Page 3 of the Final Office Action Col. 5, lines 32-52 are cited for showing this feature however reliance on these sections or any portions of Jacobson for that matter is misplaced.

While it is undisputed that the cited section of Jacobson shows the current is flowing from the first switch 14 (see, Col. 5, lines 40-42) across inductor 18 (see, Col. 5, lines 44-45) before the switch 16 is turned on (see, Col. 5, lines 49-52), yet this is insufficient in

terms of what is substantially recited in the claims which recite "pre-charging the inductor by current flowing from the first switch across the inductor to the second switch ... before a switching of the second switch." In Jacobson, no current is flowing to the second switch (MOSFET 16) since Q2 is off (see, FIG. 2) and the diode DQ2 is open until the time that DQ2 becomes forward biased and begins conducting i_{DQ2} . MOSFET 16 is effectively an open circuit prior to the time when DQ2 starts to conduct so current i_{Q1} can not be said to be flowing from MOSFET 14 to the MOSFET 16 (in terms of Jacobson).

Accordingly, It is respectfully submitted that the method of Claim 1 is not anticipated or made obvious by the teachings of Jacobson. For example, Jacobson does not disclose or suggest, a method that amongst other patentable elements, comprises (illustrative emphasis provided) "pre-charging the inductor by current flowing from the first switch across the inductor to the second switch or from the second switch across the inductor to the first switch before a switching of the second switch" as required by claim 1 and as substantially required by claim 8.

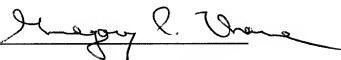
This feature is nowhere disclosed or suggested in Jacobson. In Jacobson, MOSFET 16 (second switch in terms of claim 1, for example) is effectively an open circuit (e.g., Q2 off and DQ2 back biased) when MOSFET 14 (first switch in terms of claim 1, for example) is conducting current until DQ2 becomes forward biased. Zhang is cited to allegedly show other features and does not remedy the deficiencies in Jacobson.

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 8 are patentable over Jacobson alone and in combination with Zhang and notice to this effect

is earnestly solicited. Claims 2-7 and 9 respectively depend from one of claims 1 and 8 and accordingly are allowable for at least this reason as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the claims. Accordingly, separate consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants have made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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30 November 2007

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